

A TRUE AND PARTICULAR ACCOUNT OF THE TRIAL OF THOMAS PAINE,

Who was tried and convicted before Lord Kenyon and a Special Jury, at Guildhall, December 18, 1792, for a false, scandalous, and seditious Libel, against our good King and glorious Constitution. Also a full, true, and particular Account of the Birth, Parentage, and Education, Life, Character, and Behaviour, of the above named Renegado Englishman and Jacobin Frenchman, THOMAS PAINE.

Price One Halfpenny; or Half a Crown a Hundred.

ON Tuesday the 18th of December, the long expected Trial of Thomas Paine came on before Lord Kenyon and a special Jury at Guildhall: Mr. Percival opened the Pleadings, which stated, that "Thomas Paine being a wicked, seditious, and ill-disposed person, and being greatly disaffected to our Sovereign Lord the King, and to the happy Government and Constitution of this Kingdom as established at the Revolution, had published a false and scandalous Libel of and concerning the said Government and Constitution."

The Attorney General then addressed the Jury in a very eloquent speech; he stated to them that great industry had been used to spread the book called "The Rights of Man," over every part of the Kingdom, and to put it particularly into the hands of such persons as had been the least conversant with such Subjects.—That even childrens' sweetmeats had been wrapped up in parts of it. He then referred it to the consideration of the Jury as the point on which they would be guided in their verdict, whether the obvious intention of the writer of the book in question, was not to vilify and disgrace, and thereby to bring into abhorrence and contempt, the Constitution of this Country as explained at the Revolution—to bring calamity on the Country, by making the people consider the regal part of the Government as an oppressive and abominable Tyranny, and the Legislature as a direct Usurpation—and to promote a disrespect and a disobedience to the Laws, by representing that they did not afford the people protection and security; but that in fact they were null and void.

A variety of passages from The Rights of Man were read by the Attorney-General in support of the above Charges. The evidence was shortly as follows:

Thomas Haynes proved the purchase of the Second Part of The Rights of Man, at the shop of Mr. Jordan, bookseller.

Thomas Chapman said, he was introduced as a Printer, to Mr. Paine, by Mr. Thomas Christie—that he had printed the First Part, and also part of the Second; but that he came to a passage so very objectionable that he refused to proceed. That on the 16th of January, Thomas Paine called on him after having dined with Mr. Johnson, Bookseller, in St. Paul's Church-yard, and that he was intoxicated with liquor. That Paine turned the conversation upon religious Subjects, which were his favourite topics wherever he was intoxicated. That Mrs. Chapman, the wife of the witness, having made an observation which displeased Paine, the latter rose in a great passion, and said he had a bad opinion of the witness because he was a Dissenter, FOR THE DISSENTERS WERE A SET OF HYPOCRITES. The witness also proved Paine's hand-writing to some letters, avowing that he was the author of The Rights of Man. A letter was also produced in evidence which was written by Paine, from Paris, to the Attorney-General; in which letter he declares himself quite indifferent about the event of the Prosecution—He alludes, by way of menace, to the shocking scenes transacted in France, and observes, that terrible examples have there taken place upon men, who less than a year ago thought themselves as secure as any prosecuting Judge, Jury, or Attorney General, can now do in England—vilifies and abuses, in the most audacious and insolent language, the Government, which he represents to be as great, if not the greatest perfection of fraud and corruption which ever took place since Governments began; he also insults, in the grossest terms, the King and his Family; and daringly suggests, that the situation of the Jury may be injurious to them hereafter.

The Counsel for the Defendant were Mr. Erskine, Mr. Pigot, and Mr. Shepherd. Mr. Erskine addressed the Jury in an ingenious speech for three hours and twenty minutes, but to no purpose: for as soon as he had done, and the Attorney-General was about to reply, the Jury told him there was no necessity for him to take that trouble, as the case was so clear: and they immediately found the Defendant GUILTY.

Thomas Paine was born at Thetford on the 29th of January 1737: his father, Joseph Paine, was a Stay-maker of the same place. Thomas was brought up to his father's trade, and set up his business in the year 1759 at Sandwich in Kent, after borrowing £10. of Mr. Grace, of Dover, for that purpose, which sum he never repaid. During the same year he was married at Sittingbourne to Mary Lambert, a pretty young woman, whose father had been bum-bailiff at that place. Soon after this he hired a house at Sandwich, but having no money to pay for furniture, he took some goods upon credit of Mr. Rutter, an upholsterer there. Running here into debt, he stole off in the night to Margate, and carried with him the goods which he had taken of Mr. Rutter; these he sold by auction, and put the money into his own pocket, without ever paying the owner for them. From Margate he removed to London; but what became of his wife, whom he treated cruelly, is not certainly known; some say she perished on the road by ill usage, and a miscarriage; others believe that she is still alive. In the year 1761 he went to Thetford in order to qualify himself for the Excise; and in December 1762, by the interest of the recorder, he was established as a supernumerary: this, however did not last long, for he was turned out of the Excise in August 1765, for false entries of surveys. In the following years he was employed as usher in two schools in London; afterwards he turned Methodist preacher, and held forth in Moorfields, and various parts of England.

In the year 1768 he was appointed Exciseman at Lewes in Sussex, where he lodged with Mr. Ollive, a Tobacconist and Shop-keeper, who died in 1769. Upon his death honest Mr. Paine attempting to keep to himself some of the effects, was turned out of the house by Mr. Atterfol the Executor. However he had gained the good will of the mother and the daughter, and was once more taken into the house and opened the shop; and there this honest Exciseman dealt in tobacco and encouraged smuggling. In 1771 he was married to Elizabeth Ollive. When he got his licence, he swore that he was a bachelor, though he had been married, if indeed his first wife was dead. In 1772 he was employed by the Excisemen to represent their case to the public, and to get an application made to Parliament for an increase of their salaries; for this purpose they raised subscriptions, and placed the money in his hands. Accordingly he wrote their case, but he never paid the printer for printing it; and as no application was made to Parliament, he had an opportunity of pocketing the money, which ought to have been returned to the subscribers.

In 1774, being deep in debt, he gave a bill of sale of all his effects to Mr. Whitfield, a Grocer, by which means he cheated the rest of his creditors of their dues; and to complete the whole, he was in the same year turned out of the Excise for various bad practices. His wife he had never used well, but now he had made away with what she brought him, he used her worse than ever, even going so far as often to beat her. At length they agreed to part, and articles were drawn up and signed between them.

At this time he was introduced to Dr. Franklin to give him recommendations to America; but the Doctor would have nothing to say to a man of so bad a character. However to America he went, where he turned against his own country-

men, and did the English all the mischief that he could. At first he was glad to be employed as shopman to Mr. Aitken, a Bookseller in Philadelphia; but afterwards his enmity to England, which he shewed on all occasions, procured him the place of Secretary to the Committee for Foreign Affairs in Congress, from which he was disgracefully turned out for betraying the secrets of his employers. In 1786 he left America, generally disliked by the people; but not before he had used a young woman at New York very ill: and in short he was generally despised in that country before he quitted it.

The following letter from his mother to his wife will shew how he behaved to his parents.

Thetford, July 27th, 1774.

DEAR DAUGHTER,

"I must beg leave to trouble you with my enquiries concerning my unhappy son and your husband: various are the reports, the which, I find, come originally from the Excise-office; such as his vile treatment to you; his secreting upwards of 30l. intrusted with him to manage the petition for advance of salary: and that, since his discharge, he have petitioned to be restored, which was rejected with scorn; since which I am told he have left England. To all which I beg you'll be kind enough to answer me by due course of post. You'll not be a little surprized at my so strongly desiring to know what is become of him, after I repeat to you his undutiful behaviour to the tenderest of parents; he never asked of us any thing but what was granted, that were in our poor abilities able to do; nay, even distressed ourselves, whose works are given over by old age, to let him have 20l. upon bond, and every other tender mark a parent could possibly shew a child; his ingratitude, or rather want of duty has been such, that he have not wrote to me upwards of two years. If the above account be true, I am heartily sorry, that a woman whose character and amiableness deserves the greatest respect, love, and esteem, as I have always, upon inquiry, been informed yours did, should be tied for life to the worst of husbands. I am, dear daughter, your affectionate mother,

F. PAINE."

"P. S. For God's sake let me have your answer, as I am almost distracted." The 20l. mentioned in this letter, he did not repay his mother till the year 1787, when she was ninety years old; the same time he promised to allow her 9s. a week, but this allowance was soon stopped.

Thus Thomas Paine, who had shewn himself such an infamous character in private life, completed the sum of his iniquity by becoming a declared foe to his king and country. He went to America in order to encourage the Americans to carry on the war, and to do England all the harm they could; and to his malice and exertions we are in a great measure indebted for the taxes we pay in consequence of the American war.

When the disturbances had begun in France, Thomas Paine published the papers, called the "Rights of Man," in order to prevail on Englishmen to follow the example of the French (a very likely thing truly) and to throw themselves into a state of confusion. But see how matters have turned out. The English had too much sense to be drawn in by him—they despised him and his book—and a prosecution was commenced against him for so wicked an attempt, from which prosecution he thought proper to run away to France, where he is now doing just as he did some years ago in America—endeavouring to bring all the mischief he can on his native country.

THE REFORMER OF ENGLAND.

A NEW SONG.

Tune—The Roast Beef of Old England.

COME listen, good Folks, and a tale I'll relate,
How a Stay-maker fain would have made himself great
And from mending of stays, took to mending the State.

Oh! the Reformer of England,
And oh! the Reformer—Tom Paine!

CHORUS.

Oh! the Reformer, &c.

This Stay-maker once an Exciseman was made,
Where he learn'd all the tricks that the smugglers e'er play'd
And some tricks of his own;—till kick'd out of that trade.

Oh! the Reformer, &c.

Next America saw him o'erflowing with spite,
'Gainst the sons of Old England he'd write and he'd write,
And brandish his goose-quill—but ne'er chose to fight.

Oh! the Reformer, &c.

When Peace once was settled, he'd stay there no more,
(For peace and Tom Paine ne'er could live on one shore)
But transported to France made a hellish uproar.

Oh! the Reformer, &c.

Now, protected by laws which he strives to o'erthrow,
At Britain he aims his unnatural blow,
And would lay all the Sons of true Liberty low.

Oh! the Reformer, &c.

Let the Jacobins take him;—They soon will requite him,
Since riot, and rapine, and murder delight him,
But let us live in peace,—if 'twere only to spite him.

Oh! the Reformer, &c.

Unite then, ye Britons, unite in applause,
To the men who stand forth for our rights and our laws,
And from runaway Trayors defend our good cause,
Then, up with the cause of old England,
And down with the tricks of Tom Paine.

Our true British Freedom for ages shall stand,
In spite of sedition and Paine's hellish band,
And "God Save the King" shall resound through the land.
So God Save the King of old England,
And down with sedition and Paine,

FULL CHORUS.

God Save the King, &c.